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Thursday, March 18, 2004

The Almagest

Volume 45, Issue 7

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LSU SHREVEPORT

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WEEKLY WEATHER

Today:

Hi: 78

Lo: 50

Friday:

Isolated T'storms

Saturday:

Partly Cloudy

Sunday:

Showers

Monday:

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday:

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday:

Partly Cloudy



Hi: 64 Lo: 46

Hi: 70 Lo: 51

Hi: 75 Lo: 54

Hi: 71 Lo: 52

Hi: 71 Lo: 51

Hi: 76 Lo: 55

Faculty Senate votes to change repeat/delete grade policy

BY SARA SULLIVAN

As of fall 2004, the current repeat/delete policy will change. The present policy that mandates "forgiveness" of a prior grade in a course if repeated will no longer be implemented. Currently, the prior grade is not used when calculating a student's GPA.

In its meeting on Feb. 17, the Faculty Senate approved action that eliminated the "forgiveness" of the prior grade in the calculation of a student's GPA. The new policy states that no forgiveness will be given for grades earned in fall 2004 and beyond.

Dr. Michael Leggiere, assistant professor of history and social sciences, is a mem-

ber of the Faculty Senate who voted to approve the action.

"The old policy gave students a false sense of security, because the GPA that was reflected was a GPA that only applied to LSUS and nowhere else," said Leggiere.

Leggiere explained that

the old policy created a dual system of GPA's - a "real world" GPA

and an LSUS GPA - and said this could hurt students when transferring to another school or attending

graduate school. When a student leaves LSUS, all grades

follow, including the grades for repeated courses.

Dr. Stuart Mills, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said the old policy poses a problem for future teachers. The state requires a 2.5 minimum GPA for a student to receive a teacher's certificate, regardless of repeated courses.

Also, Mills said LSUS has never used forgiveness when calculating GPA's for students graduating with honors. He explained that students may think they are graduating with honors but are later disappointed when they find out otherwise because of repeated courses.

Mills said that graduate

SEE REPEAT/DELETE PAGE 5

Dr. Johnette McCrery announces resignation



NIKKI MORA

McCrery has taught at LSUS for three years.

BY BRANDI REGISTER

Dr. Johnette McCrery, a professor of communications, will be leaving LSUS when this semester ends.

McCrery is moving to Washington, D.C., to support her husband,

Rep. Jim McCrery, as a Louisiana congressman. Rep. McCrery was considering retirement so that he could be in Shreveport more and be closer to their two young sons.

"As the boys have gotten older, it gets harder and harder on them every time Jim leaves," said Dr. McCrery. "And also, he just feels like he is missing out on a lot of their lives."

He has been in his current position since 1988. He works in Washington during the week, and comes home to Shreveport almost every weekend. Congressman McCrery will still visit Shreveport often but will not have to travel back and forth every weekend now that his family will be with him.

SEE MCCRERY PAGE 6

SGA wants change in faculty parking

BY NEIL CASSARD

The Student Government Association discussed faculty parking and the university attendance policy at a meeting held last week. They also discussed the upcoming SGA elections and amendments they hope to pass to change their constitution.

The SGA is hoping to reorganize the LSUS parking lots because of the large number of unused faculty parking spots. They are also hop-

ing to change the visitor parking policy to allow

more space for students. Currently, visitors are allowed to park anywhere except faculty spots, which leaves some students scrambling to find an available space at peak hours.

Senators also discussed a proposal for a new university attendance policy in which professors will not be allowed to lower grades for missing classes. Currently, professors

SEE SGA PAGE 6

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Corrections

No clarifications this week.

Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Letters to the Editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials.

The Almagest is published on Thursday mornings and is printed by the Natchitoches Times.

Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Candice Leone, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and email address.

Debate team takes first place at SFA

BY RANDY PATRICK

The rally cries, "We're too pretty to lose," announced the arrival of the LSUS debate team on the Stephen F. Austin campus Saturday, March 6. The 13-member team competed with 12 other schools in the "Pineywoods Showdown."

They had an excellent showing, with seven of nine competitors making it to the out rounds.

A.J. Edwards and Keith Milstead both made it to the finals in the open division. Edwards was awarded first place over Milstead based on speaker points. Alan Trichell ended a mini-slump by finishing second in the varsity division. Melissa Mjaseth also made it to finals and won first place in the novice division.

Other competitors to make it the out rounds include Coach Mary "Jorji" Jarzabek in open, Ebony Holiday in varsity and Alysia Wilson in novice.

Not only did the LSUS squad do well in the out rounds, but as a team they won first place in the sweepstakes



PHOTO COURTESY OF LSUS DEBATE TEAM

Backrow: A.J. Edwards, Alan Tricell, Randy Patrick, Keith Milstead; 2nd Row: Erica Withhim, Eric Smiley, Ebony Holiday, Melissa Mjaseth, Alysia Wilson; Kneeling: Mick Strong, Shayln Musgrove and Coach Mary Jarzabek

competition by scoring a combined 192 points. The LSUS squad out-paced the teams from Ouachita Baptist and Louisiana College, which finished second and third respectively.

Jarzabek, Trichell, Holiday, Mjaseth and Wilson all won individual speaker awards based on Saturday's competition. The win bodes well for the LSUS team, who is currently chasing

SFA for first place in the national standings. Last year at the same tournament, the team had an impressive outing that propelled them to the title of National Champions in I.P.D.A.

The next tournament will be held on the LSUS campus on March 27 and 28.

Jarzabek is still looking for volunteers to help judge the tournament. For more information, call 797-5318.

Greek Council plans 'Greek Week'

BY PRISCILLA TURNER

The Greek Council will host Greek Week March 29-April 2 in the University Center. The Greek Council is composed of three sororities - Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Mu and Zeta Tau Alpha - and Sigma Nu - a fraternity. Each chapter of the council will host an event during the week.

Sigma Nu will hold an Information Day on Monday, March 29. Chris Jones, recruitment chair for Sigma Nu, said information day is for the chapters to display what they are all about. Jones suggests that any student with questions about joining a fraternity or sorority attend this event to see what being Greek is about, without any pressure to

join.

On Tuesday, March 30, Delta Sigma Theta is planning a Philanthropy/Community Service Day. According to Tiffany Johnson, Delta Sigma Theta president, this day is designed to tell the student body about each chapter's philanthropy and community service. Johnson says community service is important to Greeks because it is a way for them to give back to the community; and to promote a good image of the university and the Greek

community as a whole.

Zeta Tau Alpha will host the Greek Mixer on Wednesday, March 31. ZTA President Erin

SEE GREEK WEEK PAGE 6

The Almagest letters policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your classification and major. Letters should be submitted to *the Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

The Almagest reserves the right to edit all letters.

Conference to highlight ethical issues, morals

BY LAURIE DILULIO

LSUS will host an Ethics Conference on campus featuring a selection of events including an ethical debate tournament, an essay contest, several presentations from a variety of speakers and an "Ask the Ethicist" booth. The conference will kick off on Saturday, March 27, with a weekend Ethical Debate Tournament.

Debaters from 10 to 15 visiting colleges and high schools will argue ethical positions on a variety of topics ranging from current events to ethical responsibilities of professionals. Mary Jarzabek, communications instructor and the debate team coach, organized the tournament. She said she feels that debate is an effective way to involve students in independent thinking on ethical issues.

"At LSUS we're interested in specific ethical issues like plagiarism, respectful treatment of students by students and professors," said Jarzabek. "We're just trying to heighten the awareness of ethical issues, primarily on campus but also as it affects our lives."

The debates are open to the public, and Jarzabek encourages people to come and watch.

"This open to everybody, every member of the community, anybody on campus," she said. "Come watch these debates and start thinking about ethical issues in our society."

The LSUS faculty will judge a student ethics essay contest on a personal experience with a moral dilemma. The deadline for the essay is April 12, and the winner will receive a \$100 bookstore gift certificate.

Jonathon Whitehead, vice president and anti-piracy counsel of the Internet and New Media Recording Indus-

try Association of American, is flying in from Washington, D.C. to give a presentation and hold a question-and-answer period about downloading music from the Internet on April 1 during common hour in the UC Theater.

Other presentations scheduled for the conference include:

- April 6, during common hour, Spencer Bernard, CPA with Heard, McElroy and Vestal, will conduct a session on "The Ethics of Taxation and Financial Reporting" in BH117.

"At LSUS we're interested in specific ethical issues like plagiarism, respectful treatment of students by students and professors. We're just trying to heighten the awareness of ethical issues, primarily on campus, but also as it affects our lives."

-Mary Jarzabek
Communications professor

- April 8, during common hour, there will be a screening and discussion of the Simpson's episode: "Homer Simpson Faces an Ethical Dilemma" in the UC Theater.

- April 12, Dr. Charles Manges and several advanced graduate students will discuss "School Law: The Pyramid of Discrimination Remedies" in BE113 from 5-8 p.m.

- April 13, at 7 p.m. in BH113, Robert Alford will lead a discussion after the screening of the contemporary morality play "Changing Lanes," a film by Roger Michell

Also, for 50 cents students will have the opportunity to "Ask The Ethicist" fun, ethical-challenging questions at a booth set up during Spring Fling on April 15. Dr. Al Vekovius, Dr. Helen Taylor and Dr. John S. Vassar will be

the ethicists.

So what is the purpose of all of this? Dr. Norman Dolch, sociology professor, said he is hoping to raise awareness of ethical issues that surround students daily.

"I think more than anything it will start them to think more critically, perhaps more often about ethical issues concerned with different aspects of their lives," said Dolch. "One of the major concerns is the issue of ethical performance by people in the business and professional world. This conference really gives us an opportunity, for a couple of weeks, to try to bring that to the top of people's minds."

While Dolch and the Institute for Human Services and Public Policy have organized the various aspects of the conference, the idea did not originate in the College of Liberal Arts.

"It really came about because of a concern on the part of the chancellor," said Dolch.

LSUS Chancellor Vincent Marsala first began thinking of the conference a few years ago. His concerns stemmed from the lack of ethical values that were receiving so much media attention in the business world.

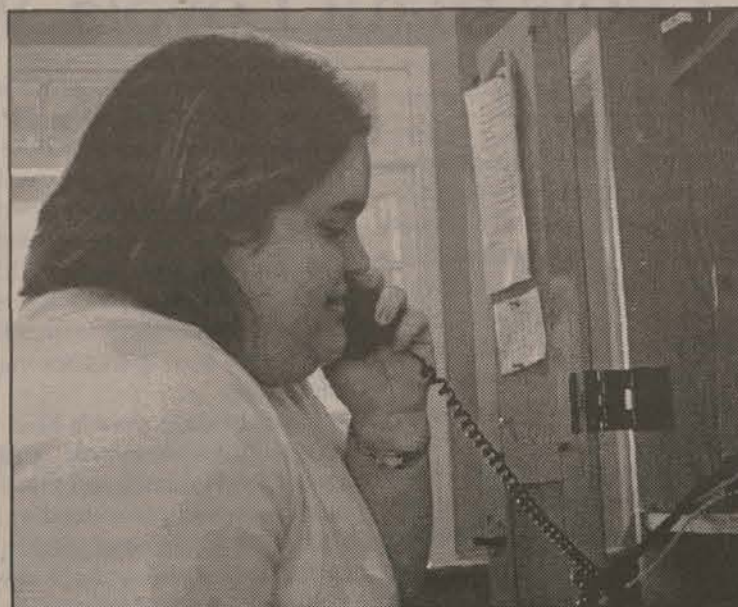
"In light of what was going on with the ethical scandals of Enron, WorldCom, Martha Stewart, I suggested to Dr. Dolch that we develop a plan; try and put something together," said Marsala.

Marsala said he is pleased with the way the conference evolved.

"It's off to a great start," he said. "Hopefully we can build on this. I'd like to start an ethics institute here."

All events are open to the public. For more information on the Ethical Conference contact Amanda Joy Bell, event coordinator, at 797-4262 or via e-mail at abell@pilot.lsus.edu.

UCA PLANS WEEK TO HONOR RAs



NIKKI MORA

Stephanie Cochrane, senior Biology major, is a resident assistant in the University Court Apartments.

BY JENNIFER GANEY

University Court Apartment will praise their staff with "Resident Assistant Appreciation Week" beginning March 28, concluding with a brunch and chili cook-off.

The duties of an R.A. are to check on residents and help them with their problems. Each R.A. has the responsibility to have 10 hours of office work per week. The office duties are much like that of a secretary: answering phones, making copies, taking messages and solving problems. Once a week, each R.A. is "on duty" and carries a pager to answer the calls of distress from residents. Problems R.A.s must deal with could be anything from locking keys in the apartment to solving a math equation. The most common problems are issues with a roommate, and each R.A. is trained to effectively solve each problem.

"It is usually easier to talk to an R.A., rather than come into the office about a problem with a roommate," says Sharon Manson, director of housing at UCA.

Each R.A. is required to plan a fun activity a month, so the residents have plenty of activities to choose from. This week's activity focuses on spring cleaning and gives residents opportunities to win products to aid in spring clean-

ing. The activities scheduled are scavenger hunts, raffles, donations, a car wash, trash pick-up and a free wash day. The UCA is encouraging residents to clean out closets and donate used items still in good condition to the Providence House. They also hosted a St. Patrick's Day party with food and prizes.

Being an R.A. has more perks than just fun and games. Each R.A. is paid \$150 a month and lives in a one-bedroom apartment for no charge. Soon there will be a few openings because some R.A.s will graduate in May. Manson said she will post the openings in April. To become an R.A., students must be at least a sophomore with a 2.0 grade point average.

"The R.A.s are the middle layer between the residents and the office staff," said Manson. "They are usually the first one to the problem."

The UCA wants the students of LSUS to have the fun and activities that a dorm would have. Manson wants to provide activities to involve the resident students, so students can get to know each other. The R.A.s schedule activities as new students come into the UCA in order to involve and acquaint neighbors. Currently, the five R.A.s are: Stephanie Cochrane, Greg Garrow, Patrina Williamson, Tiffany Johnson and Daniel Washington.

SPORTS

Pilots maul Loyola Wolfpack in weekend tournament

BY NIKKI BUTLER

The LSUS Pilots entered the weekend's tournament one game behind the Loyola University Wolfpack. They were hoping to jump ahead and take the second place standing in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference.

In Friday night's game, Gene Stevens stepped on the mound once again for the Pilots. Stevens did not disappoint fans, giving up one run in eight innings and throwing 14 strikeouts. The Wolfpack jumped ahead in the first inning to score a run but were quickly shut out until the ninth inning. The Pilots brought in single runs in the fifth and sixth innings, giving them the lead. Pitcher Cody Willis came in in the ninth inning to replace Stevens, looking to hold the Wolfpack. Unfortunately, Greg

Veltri from Loyola came into to score, making the score 2-2. The game then went into 11 innings, when Wesley Gray came to bat with the bases loaded and only one out. Gray hit the ball deep enough into the right center field to give pinch hitter Justin Gibbons time to score. The Pilots won the 11-inning game 3-2.

In Saturday's double-header, the Pilots were looking to sweep the Wolfpack and move into the second place standing. Daniel Welch, starting pitcher, in the first game to hold the Wolfpack to only two runs on five hits. Loyola managed to hit back-to-back singles off Welch in the sixth which brought in sophomore pitcher Tyler Lewis. But the sixth, inning was an ugly sight for the Pilots. Loyola managed six runs off Lewis and one more

run off senior pitcher Mitchell Person, taking a 9-3 lead. Wesley Gray tried once again to keep the Pilots' spark going, finishing the game 2-4 with one run scored and one RBI.

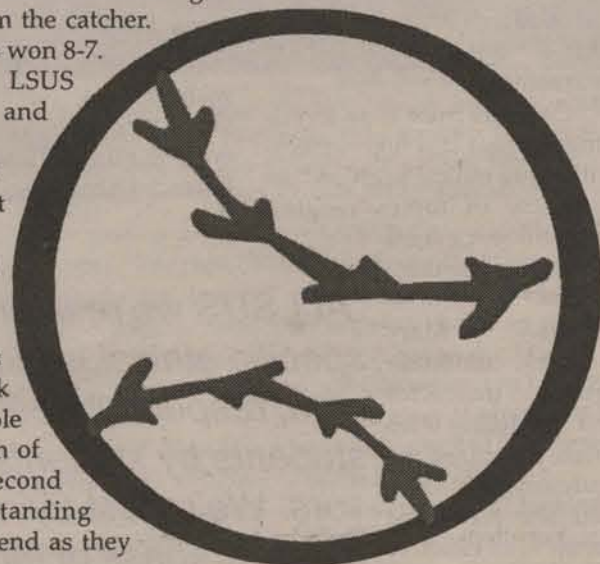
In the second game, Sam Alphonse took the mound, allowing the Wolfpack to score three runs in the first inning. Dustin Bissonette came back with a score for the Pilots in the bottom of the inning. In the top of the second, things weren't looking good, and the Wolfpack had a homerun, bringing the score 4-1. But the Pilots weren't ready to let go just yet. A rally in the second inning brought in five runs and gave them a 6-5 lead.

Freshman pitcher Kevin Jewell came in in the third inning to replace Alphonse. Loyola managed another two runs off him in the third, but Jewell

settled in and stopped the Wolfpack's offense for the rest of the game. The Pilots also brought two more runs in during the sixth to keep their one-point lead. Wesley Gray stole home for the winning run after a third strike curve ball got away from the catcher. The Pilots won 8-7.

The LSUS Pilots and Loyola Wolfpack are tied at second place in the GCAC. The Pilots will look to hold sole possession of the second place standing this weekend as they

face Belhaven College here at LSUS stadium. The first game will begin Friday night at 6:30 p.m., followed by a double header on Saturday beginning at 1 p.m.



Pilots beat Northwood, break losing streak

BY NIKKI BUTLER

When the LSUS Pilots faced the Northwood University Knights in a double-header on Wednesday, March 10, they were looking for a comeback after losing all three games against William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.

In the first game, pitcher Jeremy Chabot started for the Pilots. Chabot gave up two runs to the Knights and eight hits. Sam Alphonse came in to pitch in the fifth inning to hold the Knights' offense.

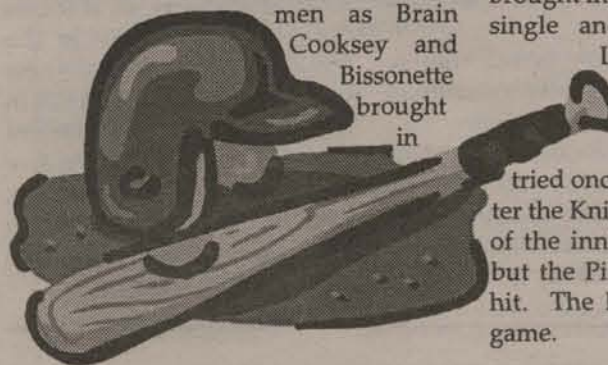
Freshman Dustin Bissonette once again fired up the Pilots offense. In the first inning, he hit a double and scored after Thomas McManis flied center field. The third inning was all about the freshmen as Brian Cooksey and Bissonette brought in

two more runs for the Pilots. In the sixth inning, Chris Frye hit a double and came in for the score after Cooksey's single and RBI. Wesley Gray also had a good game going 2-4 with one RBI. The Pilots beat the Knights 4-2.

In the second game, the Pilots just couldn't keep it going. Levi Montoya came in to pitch and gave up only four runs in his five innings of work. Tyler Lewis came into the sixth inning giving up another four runs. David Alexander came in to close the game and hold the Knights.

In the second inning, Troy Vaughn put the Pilots on the board after hitting a single, stealing third and being brought home by Jordie Bias. In the fifth inning, Brian Cooksey and Thomas Looney brought in two more runs. Cooksey hit a single and then stole second, and Looney came in to run for Alvin Green who hit a double.

In the sixth inning, Vaughn tried once again to get things going after the Knights scored six runs in the top of the inning. Vaughn hit a homerun, but the Pilots just couldn't get another hit. The Pilots lost 8-5 in the second game.



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College Democrats plan strategy

BY ERIC PULSIFER

The College Democrats at LSUS continue to develop despite resistance, with the group's second meeting going on without incident last Thursday at Columbia Café on King's Highway in Shreveport. Members say opposition to the group has not weakened the group's dedication to their cause.

Their meeting took place over Belgian ale and bluegrass-tinted-rock in the intimate surroundings of Co-

lumbia Café and focused on the group's purpose and direction for the year. President Kimberly Chester said the group's main mission is to promote voting and spread Democrat-ic values.

The diverse group of members in attendance discussed issues ranging from the presidential election to free speech rights at LSUS.

Chester, a senior majoring in mass communications, said she refuses to stop until her group's message is heard.

"We don't want people to be afraid to speak their minds," she said. "That's what being liberal is all about—being an individual."

"People are afraid of the word 'liberal,'" said Quinton Bell, junior history major. "Our flyers get ripped down, but how many [Republican] flyers have we ripped

down? None." Vice President Ryan Jones, junior education major, said the opposition serves as motivation.

"There's been resistance with authority trying to intimidate students, but it just gives fuel to the fire," he said.

The group agreed that their ultimate goal was less about partisan squabbling and more

about young voter participation.

Jones said he hopes people will get involved with the political process, even if they don't always keep up with the news.

"Everybody's smart enough to vote," said Jones.

Jones said he would also like to see other Democrats speak out and get involved in the organization.

"We want to let people know that there are others on campus that think like they do," he said.

Chester said the lack of interest on campus is a major concern of the group.

"If people want to discuss the issues, we're giving them a forum," she said.

The group is in the process of obtaining official status at the university and with the College Democrats of America.

Chester said she has already spoken with the John Kerry for President Campaign and MTV's Rock the Vote about possible events later this year.

Chester said she would like to get at least 1,000 people around the area registered to vote.

The College Democrats' next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Juri's Café in the Super Target shopping center.

Award-winning author to headline PHC event

BY JENNIFER GANEY

As April approaches, the Pioneer Heritage Center at LSUS prepares for another author to visit the area.

This year the PHC has invited Mike Tidwell, author of the book *Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Coastal Louisiana*, to speak at the 13th annual Authors in April program. Tidwell will talk about his most recent publication based on Louisiana.

Tidwell wrote 10 books while he was in the United States Peace Corps. Tidwell has not only won the Lowell Thomas Award, the award recognized as the most prestigious award in the field of travel, but he has also received the Paul Cowen Non-Fiction Award several times.

The Cowan award was named for a former Peace Corp volunteer who wrote many books on politics and is nationally accredited. Many of Tidwell's publications are based on travel, a deep-rooted passion stemming from his adventures in the Peace Corps.

Although Tidwell's primary subject is travel, he has written a book about politics in the White House and matters concerning the nation.

Tidwell has also written an edition of the popular *Chicken Soup for the Soul* compilation series. Tidwell's experience with frequent traveling was the basis for the book *Chicken Soup for the Traveler's Soul*.

Tidwell's latest release is about the diminishing wetlands of Louisiana. Throughout the book, Tidwell discusses how the land is not only slowly disappearing, but the unique Cajun culture is fading with it. The Cajun community is confined to a small, 6,000-square-mile area of remaining marshland and people who depend largely on fishing as a means of life. In his book, Tidwell suggests several different outlooks as a solution to the problem and hopes to set an example for other areas that are losing wetlands. Tidwell says in his book that an entire acre of solid ground is lost every 20 minutes in Louisiana, leaving less land to live on each year.

Tidwell will be the keynote speaker for the PHC's Authors in April luncheon on April 3 at the Shreveport Country Club. The luncheon will begin at noon and is \$40 per person. Half of the \$40 ticket cost will go directly to the PHC. Reservations can be made through the PHC.

Tidwell will also give a free writing workshop for the students and faculty of LSUS and interested community members on April 2 at LSUS' Noel Memorial Library. Because there are limited spots available for this event, guests must register through the PHC.

For more information, call 318-797-5332 or 318-797-5339.

Spectra accepting submissions

BY NIKKI MORA

All students with an interest in writing can now submit their work to *Spectra* for possible publication.

Spectra is a literary journal published annually to showcase the work of LSUS students. Every year Dr. Dorie Larue and a student editor put together this journal.

This year's edition is scheduled to be ready by the fall semester.

Short fiction and poetry can be turned in for consideration for publication. Only students currently enrolled at LSUS may submit their work.

Because of space limitations, every entry will not be published, but all submissions are welcome.

"I would like to encourage all creative writing enthusiasts to submit," said Joseph Caravella, student editor for *Spectra*.

The deadline for all entries is June 1. To enter work, submit it to Caravella via e-mail at joe@caravellas.net.

This edition of the *Spectra* also needs artwork for the front and back covers.

All LSUS students are welcome to send in submissions to Caravella in a 6x9 format.

REPEAT/DELETE — continued from page 1

schools may or may not consider "forgiveness."

He also explained that the repeat/delete policy suggests that low grades disappeared. But in fact, although the grades were not calculated in the GPA, they still appeared on transcripts.

Dr. Milton Finley, chair of the department of history and social sciences, is the only member of the Faculty Senate who voted against the elimination of "forgiveness."

He said the university should not let a machine dic-

tate academic policy. He was pleased with the limited number of hours that could be repeated/deleted, correcting possible abuse of the policy by students.

Finley said he thought it gave responsible students a second chance if they had a bad semester.

This summer is the last time "forgiveness" will be applied to grades in a repeated course.

Students may have to take classes this summer they did not intend taking in order to obtain the repeated course grade.

Have a story idea?

We want to hear it.

Call us at 797-5328

or e-mail us at almagest@pilot.lsus.edu.

GREEK WEEK*continued from page 2*

Franks said "The organizations feel this opportunity is a good way to show how each chapter functions differently and as a Greek community." The mixer will be able to show the social side of the chapters, she said.

The chapters will participate in the Greek Games on Thursday, April 1, during common hour. Groups from each of the four chapters will play games such as Tug-of-war, wheel barrow and three-legged and egg and spoon races.

Jackie McDaniel, public relations chair for Phi Mu, said she likes being a Greek because there is a chance to be involved in a social organization that promotes philanthropy and community service. McDaniel said she is glad the chapters are showing all sides of being a Greek during Greek Week.

Greek Week will conclude on Friday, April 2. Students with questions about being Greek are encouraged to attend the events and ask their questions. Jones said he hopes students will not believe common stereotypes about Greek organizations and come out to Greek Week and learn about being involved in a fraternity or sorority.

MCCRERY*continued from page 1*

"He had pretty much decided to retire so that he could be with us seven days a week," said Dr. McCrery. "But I just couldn't let him give up his job, and all that it meant to him and the people in this state so that he could be with us."

Dr. McCrery has been teaching at LSUS for three years. She recently helped to get \$40,000 from AEP/SWEP-CO to update and improve the broadcast journalism lab in the communications department.

Away from school, McCrery is also involved in community organizations such as Junior League and Sci-Port, where she was chairman of the board. Dr. McCrery stays active in the PTA at South Highlands Elementary, where her two sons attend.

Before coming to LSUS, she taught at BPCC for three years and helped raise money for the student-run "Smart Channel." She was named as one of the best dressed in *The* (Shreveport) *Times* and also ap-

peared in an issue of *SB Magazine* which featured ex-broadcast journalists in the Shreveport-Bossier area.

Most communications students are very upset that Dr. McCrery will no longer be teaching at LSUS.

"I'm glad that I had the opportunity to have Dr. McCrery as a teacher," said Melissa Ingram, a senior public relations major. "I'm sad for the incoming students who will not be able to experience her teaching methods."

LSUS is hoping to find someone with actual experience in broadcast journalism to replace Dr. McCrery.

"The Communications Department faculty is in the very early stages of looking for a replacement and will be considering all possibilities," said Dr. Jack Nolan, chair of the communications department.

Dr. McCrery said she is planning on working in Washington, D.C., hopefully in the communications field. She will be going on two job interviews over spring break

tor positions are open. Currently, SGA is holding a vote to revise their constitution.

The SGA is proposing that the constitution be amended to elect all senators in the spring and to allow senators who have served consecutively in the fall and spring semesters to run for the executive offices of president and vice-president.

Students can vote for that proposal online through Blackboard. Polls are open now and close March 22 at 8 a.m.

Faculty shape up in Body Shop

BY JENNIFER GANEY

It's time for LSUS faculty and staff to put down the Twinkies and start sweatin' to the oldies. LSUS is now offering the Body Shop, an exercise and health program. The Body Shop is a fun way to slim down and learn the aspects of healthy living.

The Body Shop has opportunities for the staff to screen for high blood pressure, have stress tests performed, get body structure assessments and receive personalized training. The Body Shop staff has done a great deal of research on the effects of high blood pressure and its potential targets, and the program offers blood pressure screening for members. The Body Shop particularly concentrates on African Americans, overweight members and members who suffer from high levels of stress. The risk of heart disease is higher for people with these profiles, and the Body Shop wants to educate and monitor these members for their protection.

A lean body with slight curves has been all the rage for the past couple of decades and not quickly dying out. However, there is good reasoning behind the idea of less fat and more muscle. The weight-loss programs at the Body Shop allow for body mass index testing to decipher the exact amount of fat that should be lost.

The program has done precise plans to determine the separate levels of weight problems. There is the category of excessive fat, which simply means that there is too much fat in a person's diet and on their frame. There are many problems associated with excessive fat that can ultimately lead to death. Diabetes and hypertension are top ranking possibilities that stem from excessive fat.

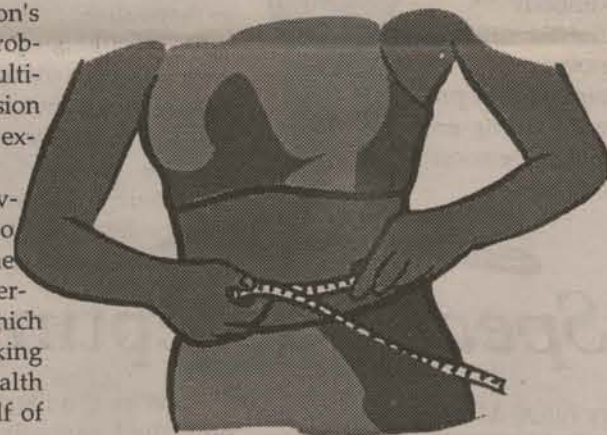
The second category of a member's fat level is overweight, which means that there is too much fat in accordance to the height of the member. One of the leading problems in American society is an overweight population, which ranks highly with death caused from smoking and cancer. According to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, over half of

America is plagued with being overweight. The program wants to clarify that being overweight is not just for people with excess fat, but it can also refer to members that have excess muscles. The weight control program is ready to introduce an exercise pattern to solve the weight issue of any member.

The next category of fat is obesity, a category for people with extremely high amounts of fat deposits. There are many different ways to test for obesity, but the Body Shop concentrates on the skin fold test, which includes pinching several sites of the body with calipers and then measuring the inches of fat. The test sites are between three and seven areas of the body, which are commonly the thigh, stomach, shoulder, waist, and upper arm regions. The inches of fat that is contained through the pinching exercise is then put into a complex equation to determine overall body fat. Waist-to-hip measurements are also sometimes taken.

The Body Shop staff is concerned with not only the amount of fat but with the distribution and size of the fat pockets.

The absolute focus of the entire program is to target potential or actual problem areas in fitness and health concerns of the LSUS faculty and staff. Although American Society may be filled with over half of the overweight population, the LSUS campus has created a safe and fun alternative to being overweight.



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SGA*continued from page 1*

have the authority to enforce their own rules with regards to grades for class attendance. The SGA proposal calls for the individual departments to form attendance policies that the professor could then choose for himself whether to implement.

SGA elections will be held March 29 through April 9. The offices of president, vice-president, and other various sena-

Jason's Flick Picks

BY JASON LIMERICK

**** *Warning....This movie review is intended for mature audiences. It is lacking in moral fiber and may cause dirty thoughts. If you are offended by "naughty" words just go see "Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London."* ****

Monster

I loved this flick, but boy is this one disturbing. It's a rough and raw movie that takes no time to consider its viewers comfort while presenting the often-awful truth. This is the story of Aileen Wuornos, considered to be America's first female serial killer, but unlike the four or five serial killer movies that Hollywood puts out a day, this one isn't exploitive or sensational at all. It's all too real.

The success of this movie rests on the shoulders of three women: Charlize Theron as Wuornos, Christina Ricci as Selby Wall and writer/director Patty Jenkins. We'll start with Theron, whom, I'm sure you all know, won the Oscar for Best Actress this year. I have to tell

you I can't remember it ever being more deserved. She really is this role — I mean, to a level that demands admiration. She develops a life on the screen that is so real. From the simple mannerisms and various nervous ticks, to the intense eyes that plead desperation for anyone watching, she becomes Wuornos and takes you into her world.

I really feel like Ricci was snubbed in not getting a nomination for Best Supporting Actress. Selby is a subtle and simple character that is narrowly masking crippling pain and uncertainty — and Ricci pulls it off. She is always Selby, and happy and living the best she knows how, but you can see little hints in her eyes or her speech that are muffled cries of anguish. That's an amazing thing for an actor to be able to do.

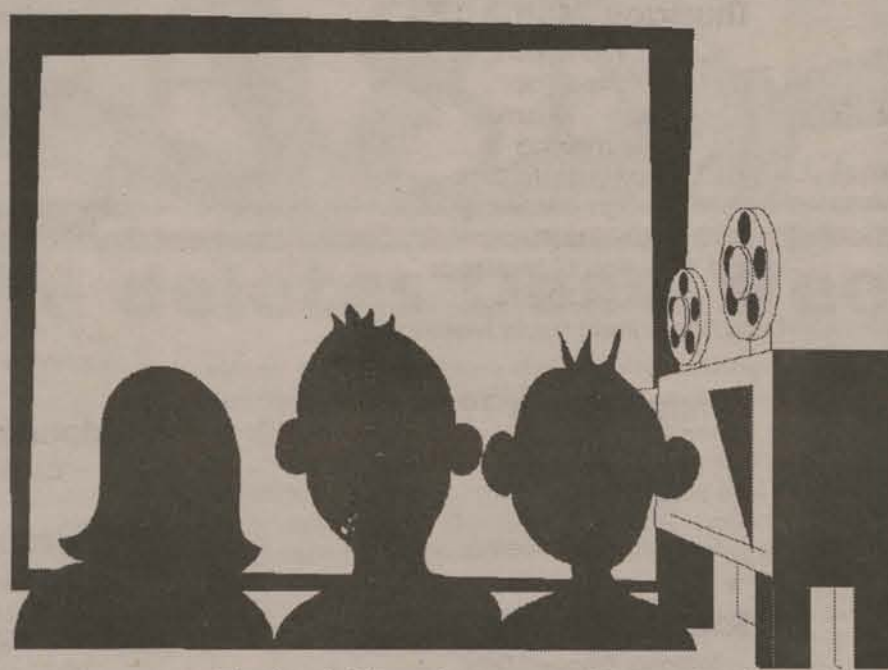
The genius of this movie is in its portrayal of the desperation of Wuornos. You are there with her every step of the way, and even though you are disgusted with her crimes you find yourself hoping nervously

on the edge of your seat that she'll get the chance that she's never had before that moment. It's heart-breaking and breathtaking at the same time, and that is to the credit of the storyteller Patty Jenkins. This movie will jar you like not much I've seen, outside of "The Passion." I can honestly say, it is one of the best I've seen in years. I recommend it to anyone with a strong stomach and a love of great story telling.

★★★★☆

Hidalgo

Ya know, I really wanted to give "Hidalgo" a better rating than it's getting, but in the end I couldn't. Ya see, "Hidalgo" is a movie I've been waiting for; the old school, Errol Flynn, swashbuckling, exciting but simple, fun action film. The problem is even though I know that's what they were going for, they really screwed up along the way. The story is seriously stagnant at so many points and really so predictable.



The first half has about as much originality as a Puff Daddy album, and seems like the filmmakers have a bet to see how many bad movie clichés they can fit in at one time. Except for the beautiful horses and amazing scenery the first hour of this movie should be played for kids with ADD to get them to fall asleep.

It gets a little better. The good points are few, but potent. Viggo Mortenson is really good in a role that really doesn't give him much meat to work with. He has hardly any dialog but does a great job with a stare, kind of like Eastwood, whose western scowl says more than any script ever could. The second half of the movie picks up the pace a bit,

and I even found myself smiling at some of the action sequences that had that fun, "Raiders of the Lost Ark" feel to them. Then just as soon as they get you having fun again, they hit you with so many stereotypical villains and plot twists that you start begging them not to. This movie is a bit of a charmer, and I'd recommend it for families that are looking for something with not a lot of violence, but still a good bit of action. I'd also recommend it to anyone who ever watched an Ashton Kutcher flick and thought "...man this guy can really act," because if you're at that point— this will be Shakespeare for you.

★★☆☆☆

BSA in high gear with spring activities

BY NIKKI MORA

The Black Students Association has several upcoming events for all LSUS students to take part in and enjoy, including a volunteer day, a talent show and the "Gospel Extravaganza."

Volunteer Day is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 21. Participating students will take part in the Shreveport Greens' "Great American Clean Up," an effort to get rid of trash along roadsides in Shreveport. Shelisica Green, president of the BSA's fundraising committee, is proud of these efforts.

"The thing that I've enjoyed most about BSA is how involved they are in the school and the community," said Green.

The volunteer day is open to all students who want to help. Interested students can sign up in the Office of Student Activities on the second floor of the University Center.

The talent show will take place April 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the University Theater. Participants have already been selected for the show. This event is free and open to the public.

The "Gospel Extravaganza" is an event that will be held in coordination with Delta Sig-

ma Theta sorority. It will take place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 22. This event involves music and will consist of various choirs, soloists and duets. Admission is free.

"We are trying to bring diversity to LSUS," said Tiffany Hayes, community service chairperson. "The BSA brings out leadership skills in everyone involved."

Shalyn Musgrove, a secretary of the BSA, said the club is always welcoming new members of any ethnicity. The next club meeting will be held on March 30 during common hour in the Red River Room of the UC.

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Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 18

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Volunteer Fair
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
SGA meeting
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Phi Eta Sigma Meeting
10:30 a.m.
2nd Year- Alcohol and Drugs
8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Meeting

Friday, March 19

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Phi Mu Meeting
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Greek Council Meeting

Saturday, March 20

National Proposal Day
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Phi Mu Meeting

Sat., March 20 - Sun., March 28



SPRING BREAK!!!!

Sunday, March 28

3 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Zeta Tau Alpha Meeting
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Phi Mu Meeting
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sigma Nu Fraternity meeting
6 p.m.
Panhellenic Meeting
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Executive Officer Meeting
Sophomore Focus Deadline

Monday, March 29

CLASSES RESUME

Tuesday, March 30

Doctor's Day
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
BSA Meeting
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
"Port Unplugged" events
10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Professionalism - 3rd year GROUP 1
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Chi Alpha Club Meetings

Wednesday, March 31

National Bunson Burner Day
1:30 p.m.
SAB Meeting
9 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sigma Nu - LEAD Session

April is National Humor Month

Thursday, April 1

April Fool's Day
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
SGA meeting
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Ethics Conference
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
BCM Meeting
10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Professionalism - 3rd year GROUP 2
10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Career Decision Making & Summer Job Opportunities - 1st year

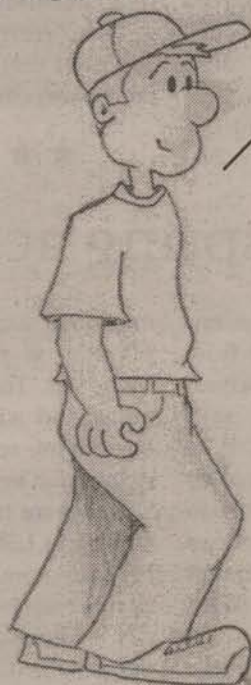
Sunday, April 4

Thank You! School Librarian Day
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Phi Mu Meeting
6 p.m.
Panhellenic Meeting
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sigma Nu Fraternity meeting
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Executive Officer Meeting

Tuesday, April 6

National Tartan Day
10:30 a.m.
2nd Year- Conflict Resolution
NEXT ALMAGEST ISSUE, APRIL 8

AUTOPILOTS



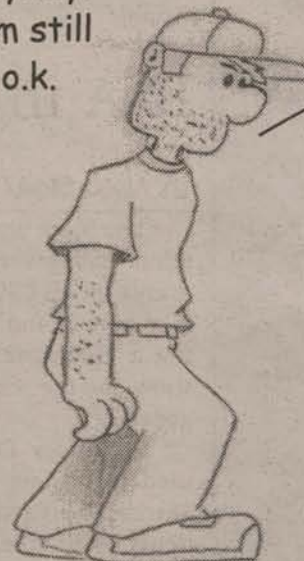
January

This is it man!
This is my 4.0.
This time I'm
really gonna focus!



February

Who needs
a 4.0
anyway?
I'm still
o.k.



March

A "D" is still
passing! So he
can shove that
midterm up his
calcul-ass!



April

Just give me
the damn
credits!

BY JASON

THE EVOLUTION OF A SEMESTER